

SB0682\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
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Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#/0682 – FAVORABLE**

**Limitations on Cost Recovery by Public Service Companies and Reports on Votes Cast at Meetings of Regional Transmission Organizations (Utility Transparency and Accountability Act)**

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0682, Limitations on Cost Recovery by Public Service Companies and Reports on Votes Cast at Meetings of Regional Transmission Organizations (Utility Transparency and Accountability Act)**

This bill is another step in Maryland’s transition to a clean energy environment in which fossil fuels and their usage in electricity generation can be more carefully monitored and controlled. It works to strengthen our state electrical grid by mandating that every electric company in Maryland support and connect to a regional transmission company to share power. It adds a layer of transparency to the deliberations in which rates and costs are discussed and how those costs will be passed on to consumers. The votes taken in which that activity occurs will be required to be reported to the Public Service Commission to provide them additional guidance in accepting or rejecting proposals from public service companies on their costs and cost recovery strategies.

We have seen rate increases requests be filed without a full explanation of why a company feels that cost is necessary and justified. This bill will make the reasoning behind any request more visible to the public and thus to residents’ testimony in favor of or opposed to that financial arrangement. It will assist Maryland in managing and affecting how electricity is made available to people in our state.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0682.**